

P.O. Box 5572  
FRESNO  
CA 93755

26 MAR 82

11:50 p.m.

JOHN KRUSE:  
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST  
1130 "O" STREET  
FRESNO, CA 937~~2~~21

DEAR JOHN:

THESE ARE MY COMMENTS ON THE  
PROPOSED SIERRA N.F. PLAN and DEIS.

I ENDORSE ALL COMMENTS SUBMITTED  
BY THE SIERRA CLUB'S TEHIPIT E CHAPTER  
FOR THE PLAN and DEIS.

AREN'T YOU GLAD THIS DOESN'T WEIGH  
60 POUNDS and MEASURE 32 INCHES HIGH?

SINCERELY,

George W. Whitmore

GEORGE W. WHITMORE

15 December 1984

Royal Robbins  
1314 Coldwell Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95350

Dear Royal,

Thank you for accepting our invitation to provide the program at our annual banquet on the evening of Saturday, February 9, 1985.

We have neglected to establish the precise times, but get-together usually has started at 6:30 p.m., with dinner scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The general format following dinner is to present a few awards, and then to introduce the speaker. This should occur about 8:30 to 9:00 at the latest. A program of about an hour seems to work out nicely. People usually like to ask the speaker some questions, and then we break up; that usually works out to be around 10:00 p.m. The timing tends to be somewhat unpredictable, and we may decide to move everything up a half hour to give us a little more flexibility.

I don't know whether Keith Sauer mentioned an honorarium, but we would expect to provide one considering the distance you will be coming. Also, you will be our guest for dinner, and you should include your wife or other friend you might wish to bring. If you would like a place to stay in Fresno before returning home, let us know and we will provide hospitality.

I will be especially interested in hearing your account of the San Joaquin, as those particular gorges hold a special fascination for me. The other rivers, too, will be of interest to me and to our members, and we really appreciate your agreeing to present this program.

My phone is 229-5808, and Keith Sauer's is 224-3318. We will get back to you with more specifics re. time and place.

Sincerely,

George Whitmooee  
Chairman

P.O. Box 5572  
Fresno, CA 93755

12 January 1987

Forest Supervisor  
Sierra National Forest  
Federal Building - 1130 "O" Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

ATTN: LMP

Sir:

The following are our comments on the proposed Forest Plan and DEIS.

1. Your proposed recommendations for Wild and Scenic status for the various qualifying rivers are highly commendable. The inter-agency cooperation manifested in the Merced River recommendations is especially praiseworthy. We especially support Wild and Scenic status ~~in~~ for the Merced River ~~in~~ main river and South Fork, and for the North Fork San Joaquin. These rivers are notably wild and scenic, but lack the protection normally conferred by either Wilderness or National Park designation, and so are especially deserving of your recommendation.

We do not agree with your planning procedures which left Wild and Scenic consideration of the Kings River main stem up to Sequoia N.F. It should have been addressed by Sierra N.F. (for reasons which have been detailed in the public response to the Sequoia N.F. draft LMP), and your recommendation should have been for Wild and Scenic designation by Congress.

2. It is regrettable that you have chosen not to recommend any new areas for Wilderness designation. We feel that most of the Kings River Roadless Area, in particular, should receive this designation. The canyon is notably scenic, probably more "wild" than most of the areas already designated as Wilderness, and is accessible for year-around recreation---unlike most areas already designated as Wilderness. The oak-grass-chapparal systems which are so prominent in the lower reaches of the canyon are not represented in any existing Wilderness in this part of California. This opportunity to include these ecosystem types in the Wilderness System should be utilized.

3. The recommended annual timber harvest of 125 mmbf is too high. This opinion is based on two decades of personal close observation (by George) of the rate of timber cutting and the rate of regrowth throughout the Forest. The actual rate of cutting (as distinct from the allowable cut) has not been greatly different from that which you are now proposing, and personal observation indicates that wood fiber is being grown more slowly than you have been cutting it.

If you want a number, we will hazard a guess that 90 mmbf might be closer to compliance with the law than would your figure

4. Your proposal to limit ORV's to designated routes is excellent. But your proposal to open the South Fork Merced River to motorcycles is bad; that particular area has greater value for primitive recreation

(continued)

and should not be opened to access via a motorcycle trail.

5. We support the Conservation Alternative submitted by the environmental organizations.

Very truly yours,

George W. Whitmore  
George W. Whitmore

Nancy A. Whitmore  
Nancy A. Whitmore

P.O. Box 5572  
Fresno  
CA 93755

19 May 88

Paul E. Pratt, District Ranger  
Kings River Ranger District  
Sierra National Forest  
34849 Maxon Road  
Sanger, CA 93657

Re: NEPA 1950  
Yours of 29 April 88

Dear Paul:

Thank you for sending the information on the planned timber sales.

Re. Statum T.S., Rancheria I, and Rancheria II, all of these are shown as abutting portions of Statum Creek and/or Rancheria Creek. This would place portions of all these sales within designated Wilderness.

The official map provided to the USFS by the House Interior Committee (John Muir Wilderness Additions, 10-25-84) shows the boundary 500 feet off the right side of Rancheria Creek and the same distance off the left side of Statum Creek. It not only shows the lines off the streams, but also is labeled "500' off streams" with a pointer arrow.

At the time of receipt of those maps from the Interior Committee the USFS decreed that they were to be the official maps and there would be no deviation from whatever they showed. I had some problems with that approach at the time, but the fact remains that that was the officially adopted USFS policy re. the boundaries.

Assuming future maps will show the sale area boundaries more accurately, the question is still left as to how the line will be located on the ground. I urge that specifications be written into the sale documents for this portion of the boundaries to ensure non-encroachment, just as has been done for those portions of the boundaries which follow straight lines.

Yes, sometimes trees get cut inside Wilderness areas, and the explanation always has been that it was an accident. This time, why don't we prevent the accident from happening in the first place.

I will probably talk with you by phone before you read this, but I am dropping it in the mail in case I do not reach you by phone. Again, thanks for sending me the information.

Sincerely,

*George W. Whitmore*  
George W. Whitmore